

M^r SPEAKER

HIS SPEECH TO HIS
MAJESTIE,

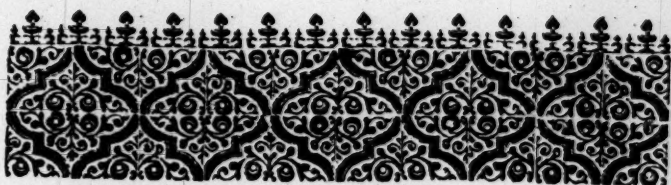
IN THE HIGH COVRT OF
PARLIAMENT, the fifth of
November. 1640.



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MASTER
SPEAKERS SPEECH
IN THE HIGH COVRT
OF PARLIAMENT, TO THE
KINGS MOST EXCELLENT

Majesty, the fifth of *November*.

1 6 4 0.

Most gracious and dread Sovereigne,



N all submissive humblenesse, the Knights, Citizens, and Burgessees of the House of Commons are here assembled, who taking along with them your gracious inclination, have according to their ancient liberties designed mee their Speaker.

Whereas I cannot but lament to thinke how great a mist may overcast the hopes of this Sessions, yet a note of favour to mee, who cannot but judge my selfe unfit for so great employment, which so appears to the whole World.

Many there be of deepe Iudgement, and sad experience, that might have added lusture to this action, and

expedition to the worke; if they had pleased to have left me in that meane condition they found me.

Non mihi tacuisse nocet, Nocet esse Locutum.

And then might your Sacred and pious intentions have had their full advancement.

But is it yet too late? may I not appeale to *Cæsar*?

Yes, I may, and in the lowest posture of humilitie I humbly beseech your Sacred Majesty to interpose your Royall authority to command a review of the house, for there were never more then now fitted for such Imployments.

My Lord Keeper approves of him by his Majesties direction.

Then he goes on,

It pleaseth not your Sacred Majesty to vouchsafe a change.

Actions of Kings are not to bee by me reasoned.

Therefore being imboldened by this Gracious approbation, give mee leave a little, Dread Sovereigne, to expresse my owne thoughts unto our gracious Lord the King.

I see before my eyes with admiration the Majestie of great Brittain, the Glory of times, the Historie of honour, *CHARLES* the First, in his forefront placed by discent of antiquitie (Kings) settled by a long succession, and continued to us by a pious and peacefull government.

On

On the one side the Monument of Glory, the Progenie of valiant and puissant Princes, the Queenes most Excellent Majestie.

On the other side, the hopes of posterity, and joy of this Nation, those Olive branches set round your tables, Emblems of peace to posterity.

Here shine those Lights and Lamps placed in a Mount, which attend your sacred Majesty as supreme head, and borrow from you the Splendor of their government.

There the true state of Nobilitie, figures of Prowesse and Magnanimity, fitted by their long contracted honour in their blood, for the Councell of Princes.

In the midst of those the Reverend Iudges, whither both parties (as to the Oracles of Iudgement and Iustice) may resort, Cisternes that hold faire waters, wherein each deviation, each wrinkle is discernable, and from thence (as from the Center) each crooked line ought to be levelled; The footstool of your Throne is fixed there, which renders you glorious to all posteritie.

Here we the Knights, Citizens and Burgeses of the Commons house, at your royall feet, contracted from all parts of your Kingdome, Ensignes of obedience and humility, all these united by the law equally distributed, which cements this great body to the obedience of your Sacred Majestie;

And compells aswell the hearts as the hands to contribute for the preservation of your Majestie, and the Common interest.

Dissipates the Invaders of the Church and common wealth, and discovers the Impostures, but (give mee

leave dread Sovereigne) knits the Crowne to the Sacred Temples, and frees Majestie from the Interpretation of misdoing.

Amongst these this great Councell is most Sovereigne against the distempers of this Nation.

Were they infested at Sea, troubled at home, or invaded from abroad, here was the Sanctuary of refuge, hither was the resort, and no other way found for a foundation of peace.

It is reported of *Constantine* the great, that he accompanied his Subjects purse his Exchequer, and so it is.

Subtile inventions may picke the purse, but nothing can open it but a Parliament; which lets in the eye of Sovereignty upon the publique maladies of the State, and vigilancy for the preservation of our ancient liberties; for this we neede not search into antiquity, looke but a little backe, there we shall see our just liberties gratiouly confirmed by your most sacred Majesty.

And is our happinesse shut up in the remembrance of times past only? No.

Those Gracious expressions lately falne from your sacred lips, as honey from the combe, make glad the hearts of your people.

So that now we doe more then promise to our selves a large and free consideration of the waies to compose the distempers of these Kingdomes, and then present them to your royall hand for perfection.

And such shall be our deportment, that as wee shall labour the continuance of our liberties, so shall wee carry a high regard to preserve that Sovereigne power wherewith your Majestie is invested for the preservation of your Kingdome, and to render your sacred Majesty

jestie terrible to the Nations, and glorious at home.

Are these the fruits we have enjoyed by Parliaments? we cannot then but wonder at that horrid invention in this place projected, *Monstrum horrendum, informe ingens*, but, the Lord be thanked, *Cui lumen ademptum est*. Can this receive a *Palliation*? Men, Fathers, and Brethren, and all at one blast; no reverence to sacred Bones of Princes? were we not all in a lump by them intended to bee offered up to *Moloch*.

Let us never forget this dayes solemnization (But whither?) It is too much boldnesse to presume longer on your Majesties grace and goodnesse; and therefore for the better expedition of this service; Wee humbly desire;

1. That our selves and servants may obtaine freedom from arrests of their persons and goods.

2. That we may have free liberty of speech without confinement, with a full and free debate.

3. That your Majestie will vouchsafe our repaire to your sacred person upon matters of importance, according to the ancient priviledges of the house.

That with such alacrity wee may now proceede to manifest to the world, that our retirements were to re-inforce a greater unity and duty, & to endeavour a sweet violence which may compell (pardon dread Sovereigne the word Compell) your Majestie to the love of Parliaments.

And

(6)

And thus God will have the honour, your sacred
Majestie splendor, the Kingdome safety, and all our
votes shall passe, That your sacred Majesty
may long, long, long, reigne over
us; And let all the peo-
ple say, Amen.

(***)

FINIS.

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